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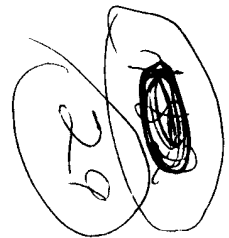
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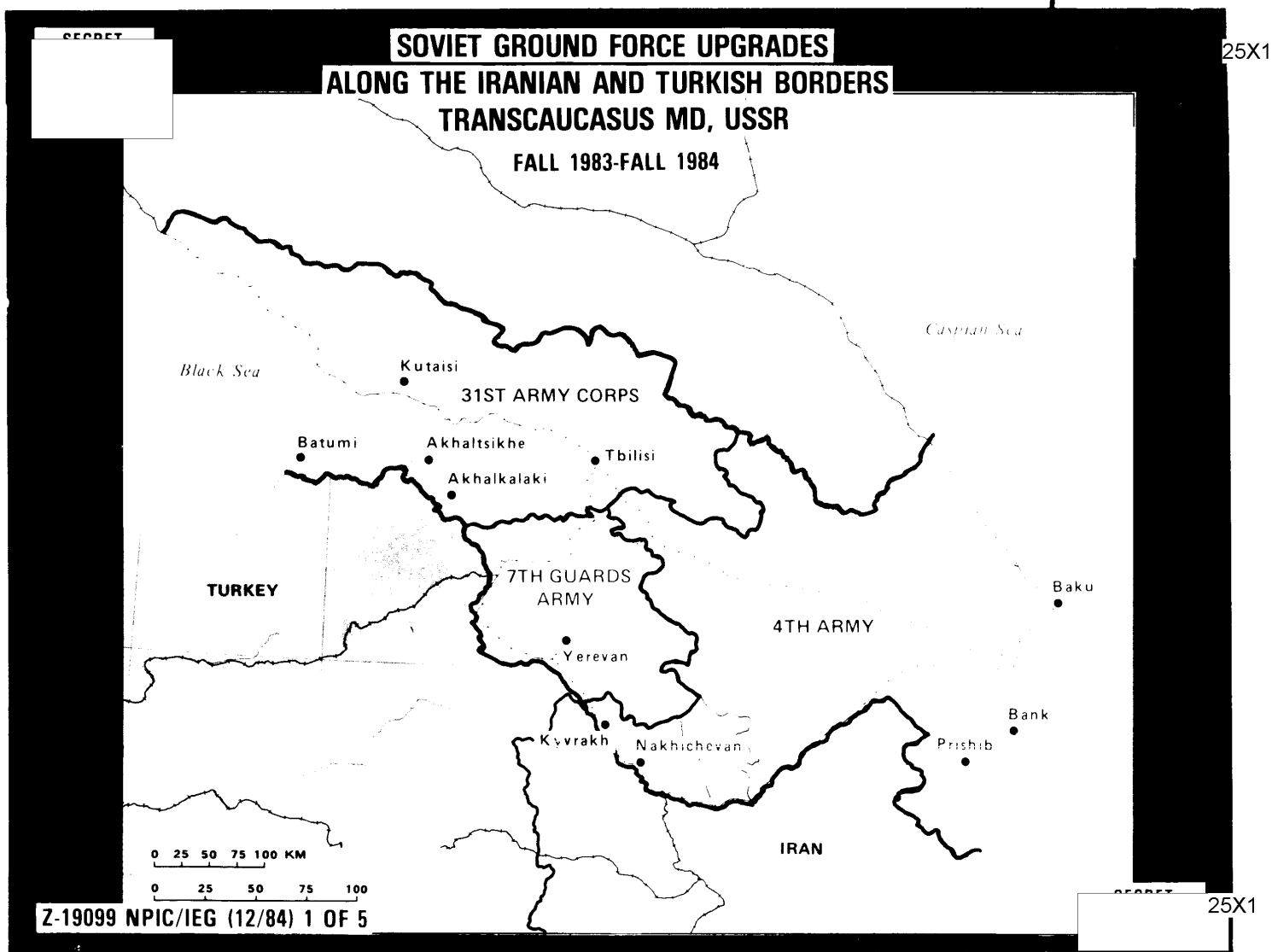
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24 DECEMBER 1984

**SOVIET GROUND FORCE UPGRADES
ALONG THE IRANIAN AND TURKISH BORDERS
TRANSCAUCASUS MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR (SWN)
FALL 1983 - FALL 1984**

1. **SIGNIFICANCE:** SINCE THE FALL OF 1983, FIVE OF THE 12 MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISIONS (MRD) IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS MILITARY DISTRICT (TCMD) HAVE BEEN UPGRADED WITH SOME OF THE MORE MODERN EQUIPMENT IN THE SOVIET INVENTORY. IN ADDITION, THE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THESE GROUND FORCE UNITS HAS BEEN IMPROVED WITH THE INTRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE RO-1 COMPUTER/ELECTRONICS VAN. ALL OF THE UNITS WHICH HAVE BEEN UPGRADED IN THE TCMD ARE POSITIONED EITHER ALONG THE IRANIAN OR TURKISH BORDER, OR ON A MAIN STRATEGIC AXES LEADING TO THE PERSIAN GULF AREA (GRAPHIC 1). (SWN)
2. **REMARKS:** IN THE 4TH ARMY, WHICH IS SITUATED OPPOSITE THE IRANIAN BORDER, FIVE MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENTS (MRR) AND ONE DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY REGIMENT WERE UPGRADED. NINE 2S3 152MM SELF-PROPELLED (SP) HOWITZERS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE ARTILLERY REGIMENT OF THE 75TH MRD AT NAKHICHEVAN ARMY BARRACKS AL-4 IN OCTOBER 1983 (GRAPHIC 2), THE FIRST EVIDENCE OF A BATTALION OF SP HOWITZERS IN THE TCMD. THIS ARTILLERY REGIMENT IS NOW COMPOSED OF TWO BATTALIONS OF 122MM HOWITZERS M-30 AND ONE 2S3 BATTALION WHICH REPLACED A BATTALION OF 160MM MORTARS. (SWN)

THE BMP-EQUIPPED MRR OF THE 75TH MRD, AT KYVRAXH ARMY BARRACKS AL-1 WAS ALSO UPGRADED WITH SP HOWITZERS. IN MAY 1984, ELEMENTS OF AN SP HOWITZER BATTALION CONSISTING OF FOUR 2S1 122MM SP HOWITZERS, FOUR ACRV M-1974, AND TWO ACRV/2S1 WERE OBSERVED IN FRONT OF A NEW DOUBLE-DEPTH VEHICLE SHED THAT HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED SINCE OCTOBER 1983 (GRAPHIC 3). THIS DEPLOYMENT OF 2S1, WHICH WAS THE FIRST IN THE TCMD, REPLACED AN M-30 ARTILLERY BATTALION. THE MRR HAD ALSO BEEN AUGMENTED WITH BMP M-1981 BY JUNE 1984 WHEN 10 BMP M-1981 WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE MRR VEHICLE PARK (GRAPHIC 4). THIS WAS THE SECOND IDENTIFICATION OF BMP M-1981 IN THE TCMD. (SWN)

BMP M-1981 WERE FIRST IDENTIFIED IN THE TCMD IN THE 60TH MRD AT

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PRISHIB ARMY BARRACKS WSW AL-2. THREE BMP M-1981 WERE IN THE BMP-EQUIPPED MRR AREA IN APRIL 1984 AND BY AUGUST A TOTAL OF SIX WERE OBSERVED IN THE SAME VEHICLE PARK. BY SEPTEMBER, THE OPEN VEHICLE PARK WHERE THE BMP M-1981 WERE PARKED HAD BEEN ENLARGED. (SWN)

THE MRR AT BANK ARMY BARRACKS AL-1, ALSO IN THE 60TH MRD, WAS UPGRADED BY JUNE 1984. ELEVEN BTR-60, TWO PROBABLE BTR-60, AND NINE 122MM HOWITZER M-30 WERE IDENTIFIED IN THIS MRR, PREVIOUSLY ASSESSED TO HOUSE BTR-152 AND 85MM ANTITANK GUNS. INFREQUENT IMAGERY OF LIMITED INTERPRETABILITY PRECLUDED A DETERMINATION OF WHEN THE UPGRADE ACTUALLY OCCURRED. (SWN)

TWO MRR WERE UPGRADED IN THE 295TH MRD. IN JUNE 1984, ONE OF THE TWO BTR-60-EQUIPPED MRR AT BAKU ARMY BARRACKS SHAUMYAN AL-2 WAS UPGRADED FROM BTR-60 APC TO BTR-70. THIS SAME MRR WAS ALSO THE FIRST IN THE MRD TO RECEIVE SA-9 WHEN THE SELF-PROPELLED ANTIAIRCRAFT BATTERY WAS UPGRADED FROM ZU-23 IN JULY. THE OTHER BTR-60-EQUIPPED MRR AT THIS INSTALLATION WAS UPGRADED TO BTR-70 APC IN AUGUST 1984. THE THIRD MRR HOUSED AT THIS INSTALLATION IS BMP-EQUIPPED. (SWN)

IN THE 31ST ARMY CORPS, WHICH IS SITUATED ALONG THE TURKISH BORDER, THREE MRR WERE UPGRADED SINCE THE FALL OF 1983. IN THE 147TH MRD, A 2S1 122MM SP HOWITZER WAS IDENTIFIED AT AKHALKALAKI ARMY BARRACKS AL-1 IN SEPTEMBER 1984. THIS WAS THE FIRST IDENTIFICATION OF THE 2S1 IN THE 31ST ARMY CORPS AND ONLY THE SECOND SUCH IDENTIFICATION IN THE TCMD. THE PRESENCE OF THE 2S1 IN THIS BMP-EQUIPPED MRR IS POSSIBLY AN INDICATION THAT THIS MRR WILL BE UPGRADED WITH A BATTALION OF 2S1 122MM SP HOWITZERS IN PLACE OF THE 122MM HOWITZER D-30 BATTALION. (SWN)

AT AKHALTSIKHE ARMY BARRACKS AL-2/HQ MRD, ALSO IN THE 147TH MRD, MT-LB APC WERE IDENTIFIED IN SEPTEMBER 1983 IN THIS PREVIOUSLY BTR-70-EQUIPPED MRR (GRAPHIC 5). THIS USE OF MT-LB IN A MRR WAS THE FIRST IN THE TCMD. IN THE 145TH MRD, THE BTR-60-EQUIPPED MRR AT BATUMI ARMY BARRACKS SE AL-15 WAS UPGRADED TO BTR-70 IN MAY 1984. (SWN)

THE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE GROUND FORCE UNITS IN THE TWO ARMIES AND ONE ARMY CORPS IN THE TCMD HAVE ALSO BEEN UPGRADED

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WITH THE INTRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE RO-1 COMPUTER/ELECTRONICS VAN, POSSIBLE BATTLEFIELD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. THE RO-1 HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AT SIX LOCATIONS IN THE TCMD. (SWN)

IN THE 4TH ARMY, AN RO-1 WAS IDENTIFIED IN MARCH 1984 AT BAKU ARMY BARRACKS SW AL-4 WHICH HOUSES THE HEADQUARTERS AND COMMANDANT UNIT FOR THE ARMY. IN THE 7TH GUARDS ARMY, AN RO-1 WAS IDENTIFIED IN NOVEMBER 1984 AT YEREVAN ARMY BARRACKS KANAKER AL-6, WHICH HOUSES THE COMMANDANT UNIT FOR THE ARMY. THE RO-1 HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AT FOUR LOCATIONS IN THE 31ST ARMY CORPS AREA: IN THE SIGNAL REGIMENT FOR THE 31ST ARMY CORPS AT KUTAI SI ARMY BARRACKS AL-7, WHERE ONE WAS IDENTIFIED IN OCTOBER 1984; AT A SECURED OPEN PARKING AREA APPROXIMATELY 1 NM EAST-SOUTHEAST OF KUTAI SI ARMY BARRACKS NOVYY MOST AL-1, WHERE THREE WERE IDENTIFIED IN AUGUST 1984; AT KUTAI SI RADCOM STATION RIONI R AL-5 BARRACKS, IN THE EARLY WARNING BATTALION IN MAY 1984; AND IN THE ARTILLERY BRIGADE AT KUTAI SI ARMY BARRACKS SOUTH RIONI R AL-5, WHERE ONE WAS OBSERVED IN NOVEMBER 1984. ADDITIONALLY, THE RO-1 HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AT TBILISI ARMY BARRACKS AL-3/HQ MRD IN THE MAINTENANCE BATTALION AREA OF THIS INSTALLATION, WHICH HOUSES THE HQ AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE 100TH GUARDS TRAINING MRD SUBORDINATE TO THE TCMD. (SWN)

ANALYST'S COMMENTS -- THE USE OF MT-LB APC IN THE AKHALTSIKHE MRR IS PROBABLY AN EXAMPLE OF A SOVIET TREND TO TAILOR UNITS FOR PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS. THE MT-LB HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN OTHER AREAS OF THE SOVIET UNION WITH DIFFICULT TERRAIN CONDITIONS, SUCH AS IN THE LENINGRAD MD. THE LOW GROUND PRESSURE OF THE TRACKED MT-LB PROBABLY MAKES IT SUPERIOR TO THE WHEELED BTR-70 APC IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AND SANDY TERRAIN IN THE TCMD ALONG THE TURKISH BORDER. (SWN)

ALL OF THE GROUND FORCE UPGRADES IN THE TCMD HAVE OCCURRED ALONG THE BORDER REGIONS WITH IRAN AND TURKEY OR IN MAJOR SEA PORTS. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE UPGRADES AND THE RELATIVELY SHORT TIME PERIOD INVOLVED MAY INDICATE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE PLACED INCREASED EMPHASIS ON THE STRENGTH OF THEIR FORCES THAT BORDER THIS UNSTABLE AREA. (SWN)

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